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JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—Mazeppa—That
Shattered Staff.WILLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—Fiasco—The Green
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Maid.one head, as a means of the better enforcement of
the sanitary laws, was adopted.The trial of the case of *Giles against Flagg*, which
was set down for yesterday, has been postponed till
Monday, in consequence of other business before the
Supreme Court.Elsewhere will be found an interesting statement
of Mr. Thomas Nye, the only person saved of the
passengers and crew of the ship John Rutledge, a
New York and Liverpool packet, which was lost by
having run into an iceberg on the 19th of February.
The statement shows an amount of personal priva-
tion and suffering rarely chronicled in cases of se-
vere shipwreck and disaster. It announces the
probable loss of one hundred and thirty-two lives.The Ohio river at Pittsburgh is now open for na-
vigation.During the past five days there have arrived in
this harbor from foreign and domestic ports, the
following number of vessels:

Date.	Steamers.	Ships.	Barques.	Brigs.	Sloops.
March 20.....	2	4	2	6	9
March 21.....	2	1	1	8	16
March 22.....	1	1	1	6	11
March 23.....	1	1	1	11	29
March 24.....	1	5	4	11	24
Total.....	7	39	25	41	129

Nearly all of the above vessels are freighted with
cargoes which are to be landed in this city.The sales of cotton yesterday embraced about 3,500
bales, chiefly in transit, the market closing steady,
without change in prices. Flour continued firm,
with little common State to be had at the close un-
der \$7; Southern brands were also in good demand,
and \$90 bbls. extra were sold in one lot for export,
at \$9. Wheat was quiet at \$1.65 to \$1.75 for inferior
to good red Tennessee, and Southern white at \$1.85
to \$1.90. Corn was tolerably active at 64c. a 65c.
for mixed, 66c. a 68c. for white and 70c. for prime
Southern yellow and old prime Western mixed. Rye
was dull. Pork was heavy, with sales of mess at \$15
75; prime was scarce and firm at \$15. Sugar was
sold to a moderate extent, without change in prices.
About 2,100 bags Rio coffee were sold on terms stated
in another column. Freight was easier for Liver-
pool. Grain was taken in bulk as low as 6c. a 6c.
and cotton at 3-32d. a 5-16d. per square bale, and
round do. at 6-16d.We learn from Brazil that on the 15th of January
the imperial government decreed that four con-
panies of cacadores and two companies of artillery,
consisting of fifteen hundred men, be organized for
service in the province of the Amazon.Another Candidate for the Presidency.—
Statements and Statements—Tricks of State
Conventions.Our Washington telegraph report announces,
on the authority of delegates to the Cincinnati
Convention from Kentucky, that that State will cast
its vote for Linn Boyd for the Presidential candidate
of the Democracy. There is in this simple announce-
ment a fair type of the tactics of all parties. We may
expect next to hear that Indiana has presented
Jesse Bright, that North Carolina has presented
Mr. Dobbin, that Tennessee has presented
Andrew Johnson, that Massachusetts has pre-
sented Mr. Cushing, and, indeed, there is every-
where a frightful increase of "eminent men"
ready to serve the State. After the nomina-
tion and election of General Pierce it is diffi-
cult to see who is not qualified for the Presi-
dency. That was a "levelling process"—or,
rather, it was Marat's "scythe of equality"
doing its work with a fatal vengeance. It cut
off the heads of Cass and Buchanan, and left
those statesmen with proportions even below
those of General Franklin Pierce. Experience,
it seems, is of little value, and the game is to
be played over again on a scale even more
elaborate than in 1852.Everywhere, easier than in politics, may
remedies be applied to obvious evils. In the
social and religious world, the public mind is
vigilant in the detection of errors and active
in their removal. In the United States we
seem to have started with the idea of having a
perfect machine—a kind of perpetual motion—
indestructible and self-sustaining. We have
not advanced a peg since the Revolution, in
the theory of free government; while it is ob-
vious we have retrograded in purity of adminis-
tration, in love of country, and generally in
political morality.Much of what is evil in our system has
grown out of the caucus and convention
cabals, by which, in fact, the country is
governed. The most serious and alarming re-
trograde we have made is seen in the presen-
tation by States of their small men for the high
office of President of the United States. Talent,
patriotism and distinguished service have
been exchanged for availability—having been
proscribed as useless material in the hands of
our political machinists—the ranks of those who
may aspire to the Presidency have been corre-
spondingly enlarged. Indeed, it is easier to
find and count the men who do not deem them-
selves qualified, and enter claims for the execu-
tive functions, than those who do.But there are, also, with the main chance,
collateral advantages resulting from the for-
mal presentation of State Presidential aspirants.
It fills the list with persons thus made
prominent, and each of these, in the event of
a triumph of the party, becomes a peculiar and
authoritative exponent of the wishes and opin-
ions of the politicians of his State. It is to be
expected, too, that unusual consideration will
be paid by the successful man to the wishes of
his rival in the convention. In many instances
the latter is the only consideration moving the
State to put forward its man.That such a course is calculated to degrade
and debase our elective system, and to re-
ward political gamblers and their false pre-
sences, need question. It is the so-called
whole doctrine of availability—a conse-
quence of departing from the rules of honesty
in the selection of persons to fill the highest
offices in the nation. The veriest dolt in the
country may be made available in moments of
excitement, under the tread-mill operation of
the convention. Availability is a trick which,
like the prophet, is not without honor, save in
his own neighborhood. It is said that the pub-
lic mind in the United States is always acces-
sible, always open to conviction, always wise
in its judgments. It is neither. It is nearly
closed in the canvases, and at such times its
judgments are practically without either wis-
dom or value.For instance, the democracy have called a
convention at Cincinnati. There will be col-
lected at that point on the first of June, a
thousand or more politicians, almost every one
of whom will have some axe of his own to
grind. Meanwhile, those very men will have,
or perhaps have already, presented a half
dozen or more of their small local politicians
as candidates for the honor of a nomination.
These various cliques, holding special control
over the delegates, will have the power, when
combined, to name the candidate; and they will
combine precisely when they shall have so ar-
ranged the whole matter as to secure to them-
selves the absolute dispensation of executive
patronage. And this is called the action and
the choice of the people!

Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Cass, Mr. Douglas, Mr.

Hunter, and perhaps Mr. Pierce, will be pro-
moted before that convention. Will the se-
lection be made with a view to the qualifica-
tions of these persons for the station of Presi-
dent? Will experience, patriotism, long and
faithful service, eminent fitness, high charac-
ter and unquestioned fidelity to the constitu-
tion and the Union, determine the choice? Will
the peace and harmony of the country be
consulted? Will the little knot of politicians
who control State delegations forego their
power to bargain a man into a nomination at
themselves and their friends into office? If
for once at least, the convention system will
have accomplished that which the people
would always accomplish if left to themselves.The most fatal power now to be seen in the
present plan of conventions, is in the local
State cabals. Men are by them thrust forward
as special instruments—boosted up to the digni-
ty, in fact, of Presidential candidates—who have
not a shadow of reputation, and who are known
only in their States as tools of designing men.
They may be Senators, Ministers abroad, or
members of Congress; but such distinctions, in
these times, rather show the politician than
the statesman.THE CHIEF OF POLICE.—At last the trial of
the Chief of Police for having been born in the
wrong place, has been brought to a close, and
has resulted in the defeat of the prosecution,
and the acquittal of the Chief. Doubtless, as
much was expected; no less would have satis-
fied the public sense of propriety, already suf-
ficiently tried by the grotesque farce which has
formed the prominent feature of the prosecu-
tion. It is now established beyond the power
of denial, that Chief Matsell is a citizen of the
United States; and, whether, had the result of
the trial been different, the mere fact of his
extra-American birth, or the accidental omis-
sion of the formality of a naturalization, would
have really disqualified him for keeping good
watch over the morals of the city, or not, it is
now on record that he is qualified, and no fu-
ture ambitious aspirant for his place need at-
tack him on that ground.Now that the danger is passed, it is to be
hoped that Mr. Matsell will give some better
proof of his fitness for the post he holds than
the mutilated naturalization certificate of his
father. We do not mean proof of his citizen-
ship; that—thank Heaven—is at rest at last
and the man who questions it had better himself
never have been born at all; but proof of
Mr. Matsell's real and active desire to keep
the peace of the city. Without desiring to
cast particular blame upon him individually,
it is notorious that the peace of this city is
worse kept than that of almost any other city
of its size in the civilized world, or than Bos-
ton or Baltimore in the United States. It is no-
torious that the police are less active, less ubiq-
uitous here than in any European capital. It
is also notorious that people can be knocked
down and murdered, and their bodies carried
away and concealed, in the best streets of New
York; and that this cannot be done in the
large and respectable streets of London, Paris,
Vienna or Berlin. Now, if to put an end to
these things, it were necessary for us to have
a Turk as Chief of Police, we, for our own
part, would go for the Turk, turban, Koran
and all; whereas we should think none the
more of a police chief who suffered them, even
though he could trace his descent to Hendrick
Corstiaensen, or Josiah Winslow.Mr. Matsell is better able than we are to
point out where are the defects in the police
system, and what ought to be done to remedy
them. Let him make both known without de-
lay. Let him throw the responsibility on the
proper shoulders. At present when a man is
robbed, or a murder is committed, people blame
him.It may be that the number of police is too
small to do the duty, and that Matsell, de-
siring more, is hindered by others. If it be so,
let the public know it. Those who desire to
keep the police at their present strength, are
advocates of a most extravagant sort of econ-
omy. There need be no money drawn from the
public chest for new men; the fines which
would be collected from offenders, were the
laws properly enforced, would supply an am-
ple fund. We noticed yesterday that the city
is to get ten thousand dollars from steam and
ferry boat owners for infractions of the law of
1849. One hundred thousand may be raised
if the law against encumbering the sidewalks
is enforced in Broadway, Pearl, Broad, Beaver
and a few other streets. Mr. Matsell will be
the right man to blame, if he does not himself
show cause why these laws are not carried out,
and why the police force is not raised to its
proper strength.WARNING TO SHIPMASTERS.—The General
Assembly of Virginia has just passed a bill
providing additional protection to slave prop-
erty. The object of the law is to prevent, as
far as possible, the abduction of slaves by
means of the vessels navigating the streams
tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. The pilots
are required to search every vessel outward
bound, to ascertain if any fugitive slaves are
aboard. For making the inspection they are to
exact a fee of \$5 from the captain. An in-
spector general, to reside at Norfolk, is to be
appointed by the Governor. If any shipmas-
ter leaves port before such inspection is made,
he is liable to a fine of five hundred dollars.
The law on this subject is now very rigorous,
and it behooves shipmasters to keep a bright
look out.WHERE ARE THE KNOW NOTHINGS?—As we
predicted previous to its meeting, the late
Philadelphia Convention was a delusion and
a snare. It completely divided the American
party. At the North it is all niggerism. And
to show how they like the platform at the
South, we extract the following from the *Ala-
bama State Sentinel*:—We ask a candid consideration of this subject from our
contemporaries who have already become committed
without proper reflection, to the Philadelphia action. If
ask themselves the question, after viewing the field, if it
is not better for the party of the South to adopt the
policy of the Know Nothing party, who have publicly re-
pudiated the late Convention at Nashville, Tennessee,
on the 4th of July last, and place before the
country some such men as John J. Crittenden, of Ken-
tucky, and Jere. C. Kemens, of Alabama. What say
our American friends throughout the South?If the Southern Know Nothings desire to
make an independent nomination, let them do
it without any convention. They are sheer
humbugs.EXTRAORDINARY INSTANCE OF PERSECUTION.
—The Union lately informed us that the democ-
racy have now nobly in New Hampshire, and
now the same sagacious journal says "the pre-
monitory symptoms of an overwhelming demo-
cratic triumph in the coming Presidential elec-
tion." The Union must have what Mr. S.
Weller would call a "double hextry forty
million horse power microscope." It may be
well enough to say that these "premonitory
symptoms" are confined to Rhode Island.THE LATEST NEWS.—About a week ago we
published a letter from our correspondent at
Granada, Nicaragua, in which it was stated,
on the very best authority, that a treaty had
been made by authorized agents of the British
and Nicaraguan governments, and that ratifi-
cations would soon be exchanged. This treaty
disposes of the Mosquito question and knocks
Marcy's long letters all to pieces. Two or
three days ago the *Journal of Commerce* pub-
lished the same story, ostensibly on the authority
of a "respectable shipowner." We begin to
think that the Wall street papers are waking
up. The proper course for the *Journal of Com-
merce* to have pursued would have been to wait
about two weeks longer.THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AT IT AGAIN.—The
penny band organ of the Kitchen Cabinet takes
a column and a half to show that government
will embargo any independent steamships run-
ning to San Juan or Punta Arenas. Bosh!
The *Oprey* is up for that port and Carthagena,
to sail on the 8th of April, and she will go.

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Interesting from Washington.
THE KANSAS INVESTIGATION.—ARREST OF
MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS FREE STATE LEGISLA-
TURE.—THE KANSAS WHIGS' PRESIDENTIAL
CAUCUS.—THE BOUNTY LAND LAW, ETC.WASHINGTON, March 24, 1856.
The Kansas Committee has disappointed several. Mr.
Hickman, of Pennsylvania, who was elected as a dem-
ocrat, has lost the majority of votes. Messrs.
Campbell, of Ohio; Howard, of Michigan; and Oliver,
of Missouri, compose the commission. Mr. Campbell
was selected chairman, because he was the leader of the anti-
Nebraska party in the last Congress and (as chairman
of the Committee of Ways and Means) leader of the House
in this. His being a Western man was also a recom-
mendation. Mr. Howard is regarded as an able lawyer, and
was the general choice of the republicans, who objected to
Mr. Dunn on account of his course concerning the
Speaker'ship. Mr. Oliver, of Missouri, was recommended
to the Speaker by prominent Nebraska representatives,
as their choice for the minority member of the com-
mittee. The vacancies thus created by the Committee of
Ways and Means and Elections will probably be tempo-
rarily filled. The investigation will consume at least
two months, the committee being determined to have a
thorough inquiry. They will take a detailed statement
together with them, and two or three marshals to sub-
poena witnesses.Gov. Reeder has left for Kansas. Gen. Whitfield
with the committee. Judge Lecompte has directed in-
vestigation to be found against members of the free State
government. Several have been indicted and arrested,
while others have fled.
The nigger whippersnappers to-night discussed the
preliminary arrangements for the Presidential caucus.
Seward and Banks are prominent for the nomination.
The negro issue alone is to be presented.The Bounty Land law will be so amended as to give ad-
ditional land to all who have received less than one hun-
dred and sixty acres, and to all pensioners, with or with-
out "record evidence."

The Presidency.

CAUCUS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL NEGRO WHIGS.

WASHINGTON, March 24, 1856.—11 P. M.

The nigger whippersnappers held a caucus to-night,
and there was a full attendance. The principal speeches
were made by Messrs. Campbell, of Pennsylvania, Camp-
bell, of Ohio, Seward, of New York, and Fremont, of
California. Seward urged a thorough union, and Ohio,
on the principle of requiring no one to surrender their con-
victions on other points, if sound on the Nebraska ques-
tion.Mr. HORTON, of Ohio, thought they must look much to
men, so as not to get objectionable candidates. He ad-
vised the union of the anti-Nebraskans, and said the
country was looking with peculiar interest to Washing-
ton for suggestions as to candidates for President. He
recommended that, without adopting principle, conserva-
tive feelings should be respected.
Mr. GALLOWAY earnestly urged that freedom was the
great overshadowing issue of the day, and that the anti-
Nebraska Americans, as he found in New Hampshire,
so regarded it.Mr. CAMPBELL, of Pennsylvania, said the American feel-
ing was very strong in the central and eastern portions
of that State, and to carry Pennsylvania its aid must be
secured to the anti-Nebraskans. He looked with the
most anxious hope to see such a union effected.
Mr. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, referred to his pledge when the
Nebraska bill was passed, that he would oppose it to
the last, and that he would not leave his hotel, and
the letter he would vote for no man who advocated that
iniquity and outrage. He advocated a union of all the
elements and opponents of the administration, like
that which recently triumphed in Ohio, and pointed to
that State as a noble monument of freedom.Messrs. ALLISON and CROWE, of Pennsylvania, said in
their part of the State the anti-Nebraska feeling was pre-
dominant, and concurred in the views expressed by Mr.
Camp